

LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER	JASON W. BOYD, ADMINISTRATOR
JOHN PLECNIK, COMMISSIONER	LEGAL COUNSEL
RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER	NEWS MEDIA
JENNIFER BELL, CLERK	

(Tape 2024-0530)

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Plecnik called the Meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Thursday, May 30, 2024.

ROLL CALL: Upon roll being called, Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik were present.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Commissioner Plecnik asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board. Mr. Brian Massie of Painesville provided a handout to the Board pertaining to taxing seniors out of their homes involving his recent trip to Columbus to speak at the Joint Committee on Property Tax Review and Reform. He shared how he was censured while making his statements.

Mr. Chris Weiss of Leroy, spoke on several topics and partially read something written by Commissioner Plecnik's brother.

Mr. Brian Kolkowski, a Painesville attorney, asked that the personal attacks on Commissioner Plecnik stop and that everyone needs to focus on the business of the County. He shared that he had called all the members of the Board and only Commissioner Plecnik provided a call back to answer his questions.

Mr. Reginald Black of Painesville, also asked that the personal attacks on Commissioner Plecnik stop.

Mr. John Marra of Timberlake, spoke in detail on the Local Government Fund (LGF) meetings and how he feels everyone worked very hard to come up with a plan that will be fair and equitable to all communities. He also discussed his concerns for the ever-increasing property taxes in Lake County.

Bishop Mirbel of Painesville, stated he was thankful for all City and County officials.

County Auditor, Mr. Chris Galloway, spoke on Mayor Marra's statements about the Local Government Fund, the upcoming sexennial appraisals and the Local Government Fund Ad-Hoc Committee that was created by the Mayors and Managers Association to discuss fair formula options to be presented to the Budget Commission. He stated that the Local Government Fund Ad-Hoc Committee has been a very good collaboration with all 25 communities working well together and that Commissioner Hamercheck's input has been invaluable.

RESOLUTIONS:

**ITEM #9 WAS MOVED:**

**9.RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE KEY TO LAKE COUNTY AS OUR COMMUNITY'S HIGHEST HONOR, AND RECOGNIZING DAVID E. ANDERSON AS THE INAUGURAL RECIPIENT FOR HIS EXTRAORDINARY AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIS HOME IN LAKE COUNTY, OHIO(20240530\C01)(C-108)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Commissioner Plecnik read the following statement from Lake Development Authority Executive Director, Patrick Mohorcic, who could not be present today: "Throughout our lives, we often look up to individuals who embody success and inspire us with their achievements. For many, it's the athletes, the Fortune 500 CEOs, and the celebrities who capture our admiration, leading lives filled with richness and surrounded by fascinating individuals we aspire to emulate. For me, that figure is Dave Anderson. Meeting him three years ago marked a turning point, not just professionally but profoundly on a personal level. Through working with Dave, I've grown into a better (future) husband, friend, and colleague. In him, I've found not just a mentor but a second father figure, guiding me through life's storms and celebrating my triumphs with unwavering love and support. In many ways, I've come to feel like the third son in the Anderson family, deeply touched by Dave's wisdom and care. His journey, spanning both private and public sectors, epitomizes the kind of rich and meaningful life I aspire to lead. Yet, beyond career accomplishments, it's the man Dave is—the husband, the father—that truly inspires me. Dave embodies the spirit of service, living out the ethos of 'ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.' He's a shining example of how ordinary individuals can make extraordinary contributions to their communities. My hope is that one day, I can mirror the impact and character of Dave Anderson, enriching lives and making a difference wherever I go." Commissioner Plecnik stated that when David Anderson became Mayor of the City of Willoughby, he had a vision and through his determination, was able to bring downtown Willoughby to the greatness that residents experience today. He spoke on Mr. Anderson's time with the Development Authority where he served as Executive Director. He added that he worked hard rebranding the Lake County Port Authority into the Lake Development Authority and detailed his hard work drawing visitors into Lake County. Commissioner Regovich spoke of how then Mayor Anderson welcomed him when he (Commissioner Regovich) became Mayor of the City of Willowick. He explained how Mayor Anderson shared his wealth of knowledge and forthright approach with him and was always willing to help. Commissioner Hamercheck spoke of Mr. Anderson's integrity and diplomacy and how he has always been that "go to guy". Mr. Dale Fellows stated that Mr. Anderson is the epitome of everything that the Willoughby Rotary stands for. Mr. Kevin Freese, who serves on the Lake Development Authority Board complimented Mr. Anderson on the amazing job he has done in his years as Executive Director. Lake County Prosecutor, Mr. Charles Coulson, stated that he has been with the County for 50 years and shared how invaluable Mayor Anderson has been and that he is very highly respected by all who have worked with him or know him. He thanked Mayor Anderson for all of his years of hard work and wished him well on his retirement. Commissioner Regovich read the resolution in its entirety. Mr. Anderson thanked the Board, his friends, colleagues, and especially his wife, Donna stating that she has been with him every step of the way supporting him and he is thankful for their blessed 52 years of marriage. He also spoke of his staff at the Development Authority and praised them for making his job easier and how he could not have been luckier to have

coworkers like them. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**1.RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFERRING CASH WITHIN LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES WATER FUND AND PROJECT FUND 595, TRANSMISSION MAIN REHABILITATION SECTION 3-W CHAGRIN RIVER CROSSING PROJECT NO. 482-W-2024(20240530\U01)(UT-2)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**2.RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A THREE-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,265.91 FOR WATERLINES FOR MAYPINE PARK SUBDIVISION PHASE II JOB NO. 22-19 IN THE CITY OF WILLOUGHBY HILLS(20240530\U02)(UT-12)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**3.RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR NOT TO EXCEED \$840,000 IN NOTES FOR LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS--ADAMS, MELRIDGE & INDUSTRIAL PARK – PROJECT 415-S-2018 FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES(20240530\U03)(UT-15)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**4.RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR \$1,125,000 NOTE RENEWAL FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES PROJECT 336-S(20240530\U04)(UT-15)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**5.RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR \$3,000,000 NOTES FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES AQUARIUS WATER TREATMENT FACILITY ELECTRICAL MOTOR CONTROL CENTER REPLACEMENT PROJECT 451-W-2021 (20240530\U05)(UT-15)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**6.RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR \$2,000,000 NOTES FOR THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES MENTOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY DIGESTER CLEANING & REHABILITATION PROJECT PHASE 2 (461-S-2022)(20240530\U06)(UT-15)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**7.RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN LAKETRAN AND THE LAKE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE MEDICAID CLIENTS UNDER THE NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION (NEMT) PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$638,750.00, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2024(20240530\JFS01)(JFS-2)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**8.RESOLUTION APPROVING LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES VOUCHERS DATE OF WARRANT JUNE 7, 2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$90,017.74(20240530\JFS02)(JFS-14)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**10. RESOLUTION REAPPOINTING CHARLES ZIBBEL TO THE LAKETRAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR A TERM ENDING MAY 15, 2027(20240530\C02)(B-37) **\*(05.23.2024 TABLED)\*****

On a motion by Commissioner Hamercheck, seconded by Commissioner Regovich, this resolution was brought back to the table. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he spoke to Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Mr. David Hackman, and it was determined that there was no conflict of interest for Mr. Zibbel. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he is glad he did his due diligence. He shared that one of his concerns was that Mr. Zibbel did not list on his reappointment application or resume that he is currently serving on the 'Friends of LakeTran Board'. Commissioner Hamercheck also shared that Mr. Zibbel was not in favor of suspending the LakeTran sales tax collection. Commissioner Regovich stated that it is not uncommon for Board members to also serve on the Levy Boards. He explained that the Board (of Commissioners) looks to appoint people with different backgrounds and ideas. Commissioner Plecnik stated that it was difficult for the LakeTran Board to vote on the sales tax resolution as it was created and presented and the Board was asked to vote on. He stated that they were faced with many issues at the meeting and many Board members were not necessarily comfortable voting that night. Commissioner Hamercheck clarified that there had been many months of previous discussions and deliberations on the possibility of suspending the sales tax collection. LakeTran's legal advisor, Mr. Brandon Dynes, provided legal opinions and much assistance to the Board in deciding on this suspension. He added that Mr. Dynes did an extraordinary job and is a great service to LakeTran. The foregoing resolution was brought back to the table with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Plecnik, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich and Plecnik "NAYS": Commissioner Hamercheck

**11. RESOLUTION APPOINTING RENEE OCHAYA TO THE LAKETRAN BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR A TERM ENDING MAY 15, 2027(20240530\C03)(B-37)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he had the opportunity to conduct a phone interview with Ms. Ochaya and believes that she will be a great asset to the Board. She seems passionate and frugal so she will be a good fit. He added that she came to the Board on the recommendation of LakeTran. Commissioner Regovich stated that there have been several other applicants that were found to have conflicts of interest and therefore not able to serve on the LakeTran Board. The foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**12. RESOLUTION APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,485,853.69(20240530\BC01)(C-4)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**13. RESOLUTION APPROVING PURCHASE ORDERS AS LISTED ON THE COMMISSIONERS' PURCHASE ORDER APPROVAL JOURNAL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,821,800.10(20240530\BC02)(C-17)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**14. RESOLUTION INCREASING APPROPRIATIONS FOR VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNTS (20240530\BC03)(C-111)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

**15. RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING CASH AND APPROPRIATIONS WITHIN VARIOUS GENERAL AND NON-GENERAL FUND ACCOUNT (20240530\BC04)(C-111)**

On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the foregoing resolution was adopted with the vote follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

UTILITIES – Sanitary Engineer, Mr. Randy Rothlisberger, stated that the 1<sup>st</sup> of 2 Household Hazardous Waste Collections will be this Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> from 8:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Lake County Fairgrounds.

JOB AND FAMILY SERVICES – Director of Job and Family Services, Ms. Suzanne Casar, announced that there will be a new program for families this summer called *SUN Bucks*. This new program provides grocery benefits to low-income families with school-age children. She stated that the qualification is for families that are currently on or were on SNAP, currently on or were on Ohio Works First (OWF), currently on or were on Medicaid, the household income would qualify the student for free or reduced-price meals, and if you were certified for free or reduced-price meals at school in school year 2023-2024. With these qualifications, families do not need to apply and will be automatically enrolled. Those interested can visit [sebt.ohio.gov](http://sebt.ohio.gov) for more information and to apply.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR – none.

CLERK – Commissioners Clerk, Ms. Jennifer Bell, stated that the next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 10:00 am.

LEGAL – none.

OLD BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck addressed Mr. Massie by stating that he had an opportunity to watch the meeting in Columbus and he was surprised at how he was treated. He also discussed the Local Government Fund Ad-Hoc Committee including a discussion he had with Painesville Township Trustee, Mr. Chuck Hillier, regarding Painesville Township Park and how the suggestion was made for that Park to merge with LakeMetro Parks. He stated that the County and the City of Mentor have veto ability. He stated how he appreciates Timberlake Mayor, John Marra's encouraging and spirited conversations and his participation throughout the discussions. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that Auditor Galloway's statement was correct in that the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee is the only plan to be considered. He pointed out that Lake County is leaving approximately 30% to 50% on the table, which is the lowest in the state. Commissioner Regovich expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Hamercheck for all of his time and hard work representing the County in the AdHoc discussions. Commissioner Hamercheck thanked Commissioners Plecnik and Regovich for their trust in allowing him to attend these meetings.

NEW BUSINESS: Commissioner Hamercheck spoke of OneOhio Region 13 Ethics training that he, Carl Dondorfer and Judy Moran were required to take as part of the Opioid Litigation Committee. He thanked Assistant Prosecutor, Ms. Nina Germano, and legal advisor, Mr. Jim O'Leary, in safeguarding the interests of Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties and putting into place practices to protect the interests of Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula counties. He also thanked Ms. Kim Fraser for her vast knowledge. Commissioner Hamercheck stated that he was proud of all the work they have done and how validating it is for Region 13 to be used as a state model.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board convened an Executive Session at 11:47 a.m. to discuss Legal-Pending Litigation with the vote as follows: "AYES": Commissioners: Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

The Lake County Board of Commissioners adjourned to Executive Session at 11:47 a.m.

ADJOURN: On a motion by Commissioner Regovich, seconded by Commissioner Hamercheck, the Board adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m. with the vote as follows: AYES": Commissioners Regovich, Hamercheck and Plecnik "NAYS": None.

Minutes approved this twenty-seventh day of June, 2024.

**BOARD OF LAKE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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JOHN PLECNIK, PRESIDENT

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JOHN R. HAMERCHECK, COMMISSIONER

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RICHARD J. REGOVICH, COMMISSIONER

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JENNIFER BELL, CLERK